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TELCON

Scotty Reston/Secy Kissinger
10:25 a.m., January 23, 1975

RELEASED IN PART
B6

- R: Good morning, Henry.
- K: Scotty, I don't know whether -- how to handle this problem but I really feel that [] is going beyond the bounds of fairness. B6
Every day practically -- in every column -- he has an article, not criticizing my views but criticizing my integrity.
- R: Yep.
- K: On the basis of tetally misleading evidence. After all, I am the person who brought about a doubling of food aid. Now, of course, you can prove that this had profound machiavellian motives but the much more rational explanation is that I believe we have to prove the need for interdependence. I believe that we have to give additional aid to Vietnam, not because I want to prove that I was right all along and love to kill people but because I really believe that to let a government -- country go, on which in reliance on our promises made certain undertakings for peace, would be responsible. Now I am not calling him a traitor when he has a different view. I recognize that serious people can have different views and I'm not asking him to moderate his conclusions but I seriously wonder whether it is possible that -- I mean, the figures he has got are partially wrong; his presentation is much more _____ by any account. We have tried to take account of the Congressional prescription. The reason we haven't announced the new level of food yet is because I have people on the Hill now dealing with Humphrey and Hatfield to work out an allocation that Congress goes along with. So we're not doing anything behind anybody's back. Egypt is a most seriously affected country by any definition -- by the UN definition. But I don't want to debate his point because people have differed on that.
- R: Well, you can't debate the point with him. This is a little bit like the original problem we had with Bill Fulbright with that analogy. But anyway it's become a personal thing. I was talking to Winston Lord's wife at that little dinner for Allister Duncan (?), and she was trying to make the same point.
- K: Is Allister in town?
- R: Well, Allister has come over here to the Woodward Wilson School. He's going to do a serious book on American Foreign Policy since . . .

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- K: Well, I'm anxious to --
- R: I'm sure he'll be after you soon. He has just arrived and he's living in Henry Brandon's old house on Rodman Street.
- K: Well, really, I don't ask obviously for your support. It's the constant attacks on the moral standing that I think affect the whole tone of our public discussions.
- R: Well, as you know, I don't believe in feuds and I think this has to be talked out between you and [] I really do. It's becoming B6 a source of some gossip within the town of the times -- you know he's shouting and roaring at you every time he sits down at his typewriter. So that the only thing I can well imagine you're saying: Well, the hell with it, why should I talk to him. He's going to cut me up and suggest that I'm not a manner of honor.
- K: It's not a question -- I don't really think he's doing me a hell of a lot of damage with this sort of thing.
- R: Well, he's not doing you any good. I don't know what it is, you know, aside from the normal period of idle sniping that we're going through at the present time. There is some of this stuff in the academic community, as you know.
- K: No question.
- R: And I think living in Cambridge there all the time that some of your old colleagues sit around, partly out of jealousy and partly out of vanity, thinking how much better ideas they've got.
- K: Yeah, but I think it's a separate problem. If they call me an idiot, I won't like it but I can't complain about that. But if they call me a liar, a cheat, and a war monger, I think it contributes to a type of public debate which isn't doing anybody any good.
- R: I agree. You want me to try to talk to him about it? Do you want to get together with him?
- K: Do you think that makes any sense?
- R: Yes, I do.
- K: Or is he just going to say that this is a way of trying to co-opt him?



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R: Oh, sure, I'm sure he will. But that doesn't -- You can be big enough to take a risk on that. You've got plenty of capital.

K: Well, if you think --

R: Let me think about it.

K: Think about it. If you would suggest it, I would certainly take it very seriously.

R: Okay.

K: Thank you, Scotty. See you soon.